(c) what is the tenure of an officer, either in accounts or in administrative fields in one State; and

(d) what steps Government would take to formulate a policy on inter-State transfer of the above cadres after a certain period so that they do not develop vested interests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (c) Section Officers, Administrative Officers, Finance and Accounts Officers, Stores Verification/Purchase Officers etc. constitute the common cadre in CSIR. These Officers are working in pay scale of Rs. 2000-3200/3500 and above and carry All India transfer obligation.

There is no fixed tenure of posting of these Officers in the CSIR Laboratories or at CSIR Headquarters. However, a period of more than five years at a station is considered as one of the broad criteria for transfer of Officers of this cadre from one station to another.

Transfer normaly accompany promotion except for compelling circumstances where postings have to be made on extreme compassionate grounds or in public interest. Following criteria are kept in view while effecting transfer of the common cadre staff:

(i) Officers who have spent more than 11 years i.e. 1/3rd of qualifying service for the purpose of pension, at stations different from their present posting are allowed to retain their station or given posting of their choice.

(ii) Officers who have less than three years before superannuation.

(iii) Woman staff are not moved from the station unless there are compelling reasons to do so e.g. non-availability of posts at their present place of posting etc.

(iv) Staff promoted from local cadre posts as Section Officers/Private Secretaries are adjusted at their present station to the extent possible.

(d) The policy is implemented effectively and provides healthy mobility to officers of the common cadre.

Memorandum of Understanding Between ISRO and Canadian Space Agency

2098. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Canadian Space Agency recently;

(b) if so, what are the objectives thereof;

(c) whether any similar Memorandum of Understanding was signed earlier by ISRO with any other space agency; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Canadian Space Agency on October 15, 1996 on co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

(b) The broad areas of co-operation include study of co-operative programmes in satellites intended for space research and applications of space technology, studies related to satellite communications and satellite remote sensing, organisation of training facilities and programmes, exchange of technical

and scientific personnel designated to participate in the studies and joint working groups set up to examine specific issues, and encouragement of co-operation in the field of exploration and utilisation of outer space between and within the Government, the private sector and the academia in both countries.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Agreements or Memoranda of Understanding have been signed with Australia, China, the European Space Agency, France, Germany, Hungary, Norway, Russia, Sweden, Syria, the United Kingdom and Ukraine.

Bottling Plants in the Eastern States

2099. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up some LPG bottling plants in the eastern States;

(b) if so, the number of such plants proposed to be set up by Indian Oil Corporation in the eastern States;

(c) the State-wise details thereof; and

(d) the amount of investment proposed to be made by IOC in the new bottling plants, as proposed in those States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) To meet the future demand, the following LPG Bottling plants are proposed to be set up by IOC in the eastern States under the VIII Plan period:

State	*Location*	*Capacity (TMTPA)*
Sikkim	Rangpo	5
Tripura	Bishalgarh	5
W. Bengal	Budge Budge	44
Assam	Guwahati	47
Andaman & Nicobar	Port Blair	5
Bihar	Patna	44
Bihar	Bokaro	22
Manipur	Manipur	10
Nagaland	Dimapur	5
Mizoram	Mizoram	5
Meghalaya	Meghalaya	5
Arunachal Pradesh	Arunachal Pradesh	5

The total amount of investment to be made by IOC in the new bottling plants is expected to be around Rs. 320.00 Crores.

Income Generation for Rural Women

2100. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking any steps to promote income generating activities for women in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any initiative under the Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWRCA) or any other scheme, has been taken during the 8th five Year Plan; and

(d) the State-wise details of achievments in that Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA-DEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Implementation of the Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) Programme has been taken up in all the disricts of the country with the objective of, providing income generating skills and activities to poor women in rural areas with a view to improving their social and economic status. Under this programme, rural women who are below the poverty line from groups of 10—15 members each for taking up economic activities/Income